

March 5, 1979

LB 211, 305

PRESIDENT: All right, Speaker. We will then call on Senator Kelly. Yes, Senator Marvel.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I would like to make one point if I might and that is that in Senator Kremer's case, he is the introducer of a bill. We can make exceptions to that. In the case that has to do with the amendment to 211, also the amendment to 305, there are others other than the introducers who are involved. So I think, Senator Goodrich, to solve one of the problems as far as fairness is concerned, we can simply say that if the introducer is...can't be here for a legitimate excuse that has to do with an accident or a snowstorm, for instance, an act of God, that is one point but when it comes to authors of amendments, then I think we should be less liberal.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I had understood the Speaker's ruling to be for the bill itself and for the introducer. If I am understanding now he is talking about the introducers of amendments to the bill and that we would treat those liberally but may I strongly suggest that an amendment to the bill can very quickly become the bill and we have a colleague who is flat on his or her back in a hospital for four days and we have no courtesy in treating the amendment that is going on that bill. I have a great compassion to move bills on through this Legislature but it dims when it comes to compassion that I have for the individual members in the Legislature to see that their legislation gets proper handling and it will get more proper handling if they are here, being foremen on the floor for their own proposal. I think we should tread with caution, Mr. Speaker, in making a hard and fast rule to block out an introducer's ability to work with his own proposal. Every now and then you have that job of herding a proposal through this Legislature for maybe three or four years because of an accident that is very legitimate. You could get your bill in trouble...

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: ...and we don't want that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly, I am going to let Senator Marvel answer because that was not Senator Marvel's position as the Chair understood it. Senator Marvel, would you clarify that?